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BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

All business or news letters and telegraphic
despatches must be addressed New York
HERALD.

Volume XXXVII.....No. 202

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BOOTH'S THEATRE, Twenty-third street, corner Sixth
AVENUE.—A. H. H. FOGUE.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—THREE PART MEN—
DICK TURPIN AND TOM KING.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, Twenty-third and Eighth
AV.—E. J. CARPENTER.

UNION SQUARE THEATRE, Broadway, between Third
and Fourth streets.—A. H. H. FOGUE.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway, between Houston
and Bleecker streets.—BOOTH'S THEATRE.

GERMANIA THEATRE, Fourteenth street, near Third
AV.—L. J. VATERLAND AND R. H. B. B. B.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Fourteenth street.—ITALIAN
OPERA.—F. A. DIATLOV.

NEW YORK ST. THEATRE, 45 and 47 Bowery.—
MAGICAL REPRESENTATIONS.

WOOD'S MUSEUM, Broadway, corner Thirtieth st.—
A. GABRIEL'S CRIME. Afternoon and Evening.

THEATRE COMIQUE, 514 Broadway.—EMPIRE CITY
AMERICAN SHOW.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Twenty-fourth street.—
DIAMONDS.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and Thirtieth
street.—PYGALION AND GALATHEA.

MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE.—
DIAMONDS.

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Montague st.—
MAGNET.

BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE, Twenty-third st., corner
6th av.—NEGRO MINSTRELS, BOSTON, &c.

720 BROADWAY, EMERSON'S MINSTRELS.—GRAND
STRAIGHT EMBROIDERIES.

WHITE'S ATHLETIC, 555 Broadway.—NEGRO MIN-
STRELS, &c.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, No. 201 Bowery.—
GRAND VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, &c.

ST. JAMES THEATRE, corner of 28th st. and Broad-
way.—SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS IN PARK, &c.

BAILEY'S GREAT CIRCUS AND MENAGERIE, foot
of Houston street, East River.

ASSOCIATION HALL, Twenty-third street and Fourth
AV.—LECTURE, "IRELAND UNDER THE TUDORS AND STUARTS."

STEINWAY HALL, Fourteenth street.—LECTURE ON
"SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE."

AMERICAN INSTITUTE FAIR, Third av., between 63d
and 64th streets.

CAPITOLINE GROUNDS, Brooklyn.—THE MEXICAN,
THE LASSO AND THE MUSTANG.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 615 Broadway.—
SCIENCE AND ART.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Friday, Oct. 18, 1872.

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THE NEW POSTAL TREATY BETWEEN FRANCE
AND THE UNITED STATES, under which the
rates of postage between the two countries
will be greatly reduced, and many new facili-
ties for the promotion of international com-
merce afforded, has been approved by the
State Departments of both countries. The
French Minister of Finance, who, as was lately
reported specially to the HERALD by cable,
calculate the consequence of its operation on
the Treasury income of France, and it is
hoped the exchange of ratifications of the in-
strument will take place at an early day. A
healthful step in the path of the world's prog-
ress.

OUR INDIAN PETS have been catching it
after a wholesome fashion on the North fork
of the Red River, where over a score of the
Comanches were sent to the happy hunting
grounds in a hurry. Along the line of the
Northern Pacific Railroad a party of Sioux
attacked a log-cutting party and were driven
off with a loss of three of their number.
These gentlemen, whose absence from
this earthly sphere a number of white old
ladies will deplore, are doubtless closely re-
lated to the smiling warriors who have been
feasting at Washington and in this city. The
flatheads are about to go on a reservation and
be fed for the winter. They will occupy their
leisure in casting bullets and sharpening
knives for the Spring scalping season. Cochise
is about to follow this laudable example with
his unruly crowd.

The Present Political Situation and
the Outlook of Parties in the Fu-
ture.

In less than three weeks from to-day the
people of the United States will be called
upon to perform the most important duty im-
posed upon them as citizens of a republic—to
make choice of their Chief Magistrate, and by
this act to shape the policy of the national
administration for the next four years. It
would be a fortunate thing for the country if
we could rest assured that this duty would be
discharged conscientiously and honestly; that
every man would vote in accordance with his
convictions, and that the honor and welfare of
the nation would alone influence the verdict
to be rendered at the polls. But the party
organs have done their best to degrade the
present contest into one of mere personalities,
and passion rather than reason is likely to
control the result. At present it appears
almost certain that General Grant will be
re-elected to the office he has filled for the
last four years, and that the lease of life of
the republican party will be nominally
extended for another Presidential term, despite
the recent serious secession from its ranks.
The preliminary trials in the States all point
to this consummation; for, notwithstanding
the fact that the opposition has succeeded in
carrying Indiana and has managed to cut
down the Ohio majority in a marked and sig-
nificant manner, its failure in the latter State
and its overwhelming defeat in Pennsylvania
may be considered conclusive evidence of its
inability to overthrow, in the November elec-
tions, the party now in power. The fact ap-
pears to be that the country is not at this time
prepared either for a sudden and violent
change or for an experiment that may lead to
a disturbance of the present financial situa-
tion, and hence has made up its mind to sup-
port General Grant rather than to turn over
the government to Mr. Greeley and his singu-
larly constituted band of supporters.

There has, however, been a sufficiently pow-
erful and dangerous rebellion against the
existing administration to mark a serious dis-
affection in the public mind toward the party
in power. The strength of the opposition has
been thus far astonishing, even if it should not
again rally in a threatening manner. Without
any regular organization, with old parties
shattered and scattered, without money or of-
ficial patronage, it has forced the administration
to extraordinary efforts in order to prevent it
from becoming an overwhelming success. In
North Carolina, at the opening of the cam-
paign, it struck down the usually large repub-
lican majorities and won a substantial victory
for the liberals. In Ohio it seriously impaired
the administration strength; in Indiana it
achieved a brilliant and decisive triumph; in
Georgia it showed a strength that shook the
accepted belief in the position of the Southern
States. All this was accomplished, it
must be remembered, in the teeth of a
patronage that is becoming alarmingly in-
fluential, and of a moneyed power probably
unequalled since the initiation of political
contests in this country. While the republi-
cans have had millions of offices to draw upon
for contributions to defray the expenses of the
elections, and have thus been in a position to
meet all claims made upon them with a liberal
hand, the opposition has been driven to depend
upon the meagre subscriptions of individuals,
and has been sometimes destitute of funds to
cover even the most ordinary expenses of a
campaign. Yet in spite of these drawbacks
and disadvantages the struggle in every State,
with one or two hopeless exceptions, has been
vigorously maintained, and the result has
shown the unsettled and dissatisfied condition
of the public mind. Leaving out of sight
the serious allegations of frauds against the
winning party in Pennsylvania, there is sufficient evidence to satisfy every im-
partial and dispassionate mind that the State
elections by no means settle the question of
the Presidency, although they unquestionably
greatly strengthen the chances of an adminis-
tration triumph in November.

If, as we predict, the republicans should be
successful in the now rapidly approaching
battle, and General Grant should be re-elected
for another Presidential term, we shall not
suffer the administration to lose sight of the
lesson taught by the closeness of the present
contest. We shall insist that the voice
of the people, raised so significantly in this
campaign, demands a reorganization of the
Cabinet, looking to a change of policy in our
foreign relations and in our financial affairs.
Whether Mr. Boutwell may go to the United
States Senate or to private life, we shall de-
mand his removal from the position he now
occupies. Whatever may become of that
highly respectable citizen, Mr. Hamilton Fish,
we shall press for his retirement from his
present Secretaryship and for the appointment
of a successor who will impart a more digni-
fied, a more American and a firmer tone to
our foreign policy. We shall keep a sharp
eye upon Congress, and shall watch jealously for a reversal of all those laws
by which the Southern States are now dis-
tinguished from the Northern States and sub-
jected to federal interference, direct or indi-
rect, in their local governments. We shall
call upon General Grant for such a broad,
comprehensive, liberal treatment of the South
as will effectually blot out all remembrances
of the War of the Rebellion, all resentments
between sections and races, and make us in
heart as well as in name the people of the
United States. It is still uncertain what may
be the final verdict of the electors in Novem-
ber, and it is yet possible that any indis-
creet and overbearing action on the part
of those in power might upset all the expe-
rience of the past and reverse the results of
October in the more momentous struggle. At
all events it seems certain that, with those
who may vote the straight-out ticket and those
who will refrain from voting at all, a very
large portion, if not an actual majority, of the
American people will withhold an actual en-
dorsement of the administration and its policy.
Under these circumstances we shall feel just-
ified in holding General Grant up to a strict
fulfillment of his duty as President of the
whole United States, and in denouncing any
attempt to distort his re-election—if he should
be re-elected—into a republican victory and
an approval of the policy of the present domi-
nant party.

Above all, we desire to impress upon the op-
position the importance of maintaining the
fight to the last hour and of using all legiti-
mate efforts to secure success. If defeat
awaits them it is yet their interest and their
duty to make their strength felt at the polls

and in the Congressional districts. With the
re-election of President Grant all old parties
must necessarily fall to pieces. The adminis-
tration accomplishes the destruction of the
time-honored democracy at the same moment
that it strikes the dissatisfied republicans to
the earth. The defeat of Greeley annihilates
the organization that endorsed and adopted
him and that might have rebuilt itself under
his Presidential term and succeeded him at its
close in its own original character. On the
re-election of General Grant there will be
nothing left but to form a new party on the
combined opposition elements in Congress,
and these should be made as imposing as pos-
sible for that purpose. There will be a grand
opportunity at their command before Congress
meets after the November election to as-
semble in caucus and determine upon a
dignified, patriotic line of conduct, looking
to no factious opposition to the President or
his Congressional majority, but to a firm advo-
cacy of all those measures of reform virtually
endorsed by the people in the present cam-
paign. They should resolve to press with all
their united power an effective civil service
reform; to insist upon a bold, dignified,
American policy in our foreign relations; to
demand full justice for the white people of the
South, a complete reconciliation between the
sections and equal constitutional rights for
all citizens and all States of the Union.
Should the administration continue to resist
such just and patriotic measures the people
will stand at the back of the opposition and
will strengthen them year after year until the
next Presidential election comes round. At the
same time President Grant will enjoy an oppor-
tunity such as no other Chief Magistrate has ever
known to make himself in truth the Presi-
dent of the whole nation and the idol of the
whole people. His own political party is for-
ever destroyed as a distinct organization.
Losing its most brilliant lights and trusting to
outside combinations, alliances and bargains
for its present success, it will never exhibit
power again as a republican party. In his
next term of office he can cut loose from
his evil advisers and stand forth as the
champion of Southern freedom,
of civil service reform, of American
ideas in our foreign policy and of purity in
the government. There is ample field for him
to build up a reputation in the next four years
second only to that of Washington, and to
retire at the end of his next term of office
with as much love and veneration on the part
of his countrymen as followed our first hero
into private life. Let him do this, and the
fame he wins in peace will eclipse the glory
he has already gained in war.

The Relations Between England and
Ireland.—Mr. Froude's Mission.

The large audience which greeted Mr.
James Anthony Froude, the historian, on the
occasion of his first lecture on the relations
between England and Ireland, and the equally
large assemblages which are likely to hear him
to the end, are evidences of the calmness and
good will with which he is welcomed by the
American people. His eminence in literature
was sure to gain him a patient hearing; but
whether his mission will have any practical
result is a question entirely apart from the
personal kindness which is everywhere shown
him. Mr. Froude, as is natural in a stranger
to the American nation, and especially in an
English stranger, makes the mistake at the
outset of assuming that America and England
are kindred. Our people are more Irish than
English, and as much German as either. The
Puritan blood has evaporated, and the ma-
jority of our family names would sound
strangely in English ears. To a people thus
constituted, and in the third and fourth
generations singularly free from every feeling
of kinship to which Mr. Froude appeals, this
eminent student and scholar has come to make
American opinion favorable to English rule in
Ireland. Courteously as he has been received,
and patiently as he will be heard, he is not
likely to make any real progress in his mission;
for he will learn before his task is ended that
his hearers make up their judgment in this
matter by the American and not the English
standard of public policy.

We are not disposed to look upon the letter
of Rufus King in the light which Mr. Froude
evidently regards it. It was a singular letter
for an American ambassador to write, as Mr.
Froude fully admits, but it contained senti-
ments so characteristic of any other than a re-
publican country that we can only place it
where it belongs and pronounce it a reflex of
English opinion from an American mouth-
piece. Mr. King's fears were never shared by
any considerable number of his countrymen.
If they had been Thomas Addis Emmett and
Dr. William James McNevin would not have
attained the eminence in America which was
accorded them in their respective professions.
The one rose to be Attorney General of the
State of New York, and the other was long re-
garded as among the leading physicians of
this country. In this connection it must not
be forgotten that Mr. Charles O'Connor and
many of the best and most devoted citizens of
the United States are descended from the con-
spirators of '98, against whose presence in
America Mr. King protested. At this day we
cannot but feel ashamed of the letter which
the English historian has brought to light from
among the state papers of Ireland, but we
cannot draw from the mistake of the American
minister even the charity towards the mistakes
of England which he invokes. We prefer,
rather, to take the old-time plea of Ireland
and accuse England of Mr. King's blunder.
It was only servility to English ideas that
could induce such expression of a fear on the
part of an American, and, though England
may taunt us with the mistake, we hold our-
selves to answer, "We acknowledge our erro-
neous estimate of the Irish patriots; when
will you acknowledge as freely England's
wrongs against Ireland?"

The line of Mr. Froude's argument was
pretty thoroughly indicated in his first lecture.
Though nominally devoted to the Norman
conquest of Ireland, it was in fact the ground-
work for the series. In many respects it was
the old, old story, and by way of reply it
will receive the old, old answer. But Mr. Froude
will find the American verdict rendered against
him if he presses his case to a conclusion, and
mainly on his own admission, that after seven
hundred years England and Ireland are still
an ill-matched couple. The incompatibility
of the two peoples ought to be sufficient reason
for their divorce after so many centuries.
Whether Ireland is capable of governing her-
self is not a question for England to consider
as against Ireland's desire in the matter.

Englishmen may be as widely mistaken as to
the capacities of Irishmen for freedom as was
Mr. Rufus King in 1798. The question is
not one merely of the relative condition of
Ireland; and while it is not necessary for the
English to consider the fate of the Irish in a
state of independence, it is equally unnecessary
for us to consider England's treatment of
Ireland. In making up an opinion on the
subject we care not whether England has been
the tyrant and Ireland the slave, nor do we
care whether Mr. Froude's assertions as to the
condition of Ireland are to be attributed to
English or Irish causes. More prominent
than anything else is the fact that for seven
centuries Ireland has been unhappy and dis-
contented and panting to be free. We cannot
overlook this fact, and the American judgment
in a case where the two peoples are so unmis-
takeably irreconcilable will inevitably be in
favor of the weak and dissatisfied nation.

The condition of Ireland we regard as the
weakest point in Mr. Froude's plea. It gives
Ireland and Ireland's partisans the opportu-
nity to reply by imputing the blame for this
upon England, and even to go further and
accuse the English of inventing the machinery
and fostering the system by which the Irish
are repressed and degraded. Nor can we
forget that Mr. Froude's own pictures of the
condition of England are quite as painful as
those which he draws of Ireland and the Irish.
It is a very superficial view of the rights and
duties of nations to argue from any such
standpoint and an equally superficial view of
the capacities for freedom of men ardently
desiring to be free. The Norman conquest of
Ireland has no more legitimate bearing upon
Ireland's subjection to England than the Nor-
man conquest of England upon England's
subjection to Ireland. Everything except the
seven centuries of discontent is out of the
case, and this will stand as the condemnation
of England till Ireland is free.

Mr. Froude's mission, in so far as it is a
mission, cannot but end in a failure. His
visit to this country will prove, we earnestly
believe, a pleasant and agreeable experience.
He will not find among us much of that kin-
ship of which both peoples sometimes speak,
but we trust he will find us more hospitable
than kinsmen usually show themselves. He
will find us differing from his own estimate of
the merits of the quarrel between England and
Ireland, but he will not find us indulging in
any discourtesy towards a guest or treating his
opinions with disdain. In all things we shall
behave as a free people receiving a distin-
guished visitor, so that when he returns to
his own country he may carry back with him
many pleasing memories of the newer world
he is now seeing for the first time.

An "International Fund" for the Abolition
of the African Slave Trade.

The following note from a philanthropic
"American," with his admirable propositions
for a universal movement in the name and the
cause of civilization and humanity, looking to
the abolition of African slavery, or the slave
trade in Africa, we cheerfully submit to the
special attention of our readers throughout the
world. We do so because we believe that we
have here a hint or two which, if actively fol-
lowed up in the line suggested, will surely
result in one of the most glorious and beneficent
triumphs of modern civilization:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK HERALD, Oct. 18, 1872.
DEAR SIR:—I glanced at your editorial in the
HERALD of this date, "African Slavery," and admired
its spirit, &c. As you say, "Why should not America
take the lead in destroying this last vestige of
slavery from among the nations of the world?" Eng-
land would join her. Circulate a petition, signed
by the principal men of the country calling upon
Congress or President Grant to make a move in
the matter, and start an "international fund" or
collection in this city and extend it at the same
time to all cities in the world. This would create
a spirit of emulation between different cities, and
thus help the good cause along by rapidly in-
creasing contributions. I have no doubt by the
publicity, through your paper, and the above you
could enlist the moral support (if not the material
of the different Powers, and the money collected
would be sufficient to fit out a force ample enough
to destroy this last blot on the escutcheon of the
nineteenth century. I will send the list with (\$25)
twenty-five dollars and enclose my check for same.
I don't want you to know me in the transaction;
so you can say, "Received from an American, \$25." I
will success to the cause I remain yours, &c.

Let us briefly consider these suggestions.
The idea of petitions to Congress and the
President for a move in the matter is a good
one. In fact, it is the first essential required
to give a practical shape and direction to the
great enterprise in view. If we could get a
recommendation to Congress from the Presi-
dent, in his annual message of December
next, for an act approving the movement, we
are sure that he would gladly undertake the
pleasing task of getting together at Washing-
ton a High Joint Commission, embracing
representatives from all the great Powers of
Europe, and from Spain, Portugal and Tur-
key, and from Egypt and other countries
directly concerned, for the purposes of a gen-
eral treaty, embracing the complete abolition
of African slavery and the African slave trade
in both hemispheres.

With the general adoption of such treaty
the only serious difficulties against its enforce-
ment will be among the slave hunters and
traders of the African Continent, and here,
under the protection of the treaty, the private
contributions of the people of Christendom
will no doubt be needed in the support of mis-
sionaries and other agents specially assigned to
the duty of policemen and magistrates against
the slave hunters and slave catchers in the
various districts of Africa where this traffic
has become systematic and profitable. True,
with the co-operation of Turkey and Egypt,
the great Powers of Christendom, including
the United States, might compass the object
contemplated in a treaty similar to that under
which the joint police squadron of war ships
for the suppression of the transatlantic slave
trade on the West Coast of Africa was main-
tained for many years.

In any event, to give a practical direction to
the great object indicated, our philanthropic
"American" has placed in our keeping his
subscription of twenty-five dollars, and, as the
first contribution in this great cause, we have
an idea that for our unknown "American"
there will be a great reward. The New York
HERALD, in consideration of its full commit-
ment to the general objects involved in the
Stanley expedition in search of Livingstone
and in our up-Nile expedition, hereby sets
aside the sum of one thousand dollars for the
proposed "international fund" for the aboli-
tion of African slavery and of the slave trade
in Africa. We want first, however, a base of
operations and a definite plan of action. To
secure these essentials we want some action
from Congress and a helping hand from the
President, for which petitions to the President
and Congress are first in order.

Now, as all our Christian churches—Pro-

testant and Catholic, from generation to gen-
eration, at the expense of millions of money—
have been sending out their missionaries to
teach the way of salvation to the poor heathen
of Africa, and as their labors have been
wasted like sprinkles of rain upon the desert,
these Christian churches surely will gladly
join in the enterprise proposed, through
which, within a year, the foundation of Africa's
redemption from heathenism may be laid in
her redemption from the withering curses of
slavery and the slave trade.

In October last a cry of distress was borne
upon the winds from the thousands of suffer-
ing people left homeless and destitute by the
devastating fires of Chicago and in the forests
of Wisconsin, and on the wings of the light-
ning there was a general response of relief
from all the nations within reach of the tele-
graph. But in Africa a million of souls every
year are sacrificed to the Moloch of the slave
trade, and we know, from the relief that was
poured into Chicago, that we have only to get
this enterprise for the relief of Africa into a
practical shape in order to command the active
sympathy of the Old World and the New. When
we look at it now, through the medium of this
universal relief to our suffering citizens of the
West, we are surprised that this happy conceit
of a general benevolent movement to sweep
away the remaining horrors of African
slavery has so long been lying dormant when
the work can be so easily done.

There are men living who remember the
time when both England and the United
States were engaged in the African slave trade,
at the time when the Dey of Algiers sold his
prisoners captured in war as slaves, regardless
of race or color. France, in the course of her
great Revolution of 1789, gave the first bloody
impulse in St. Domingo to universal liberty;
England, some thirty odd years later, bought
the emancipation of her West Indian slaves.
Next France, in the con-
quest and occupation of Algeria, settled
the slavery question in that quarter. Next
came the great acts of white emancipation
in Russia and black emancipation in the
United States, and next the emancipation acts
of Brazil. From Florida down to her remotest
conquests in South America, Spain, with her
occupation, had established slavery; but now
all that are left of these vast possessions are
the islands of Cuba and Porto Rico, and in
these two islands, we may say, we have all that
is left in this hemisphere of African slavery
and the slave trade, for Brazil is in the active
process of emancipation, and her African
slave trade is suppressed.

The work, therefore, still remaining to be
done to complete the extinguishment of Afri-
can slavery and the slave trade is compara-
tively a bagatelle, and the improved facilities
and spirit for the work pervade the civilized
world. Let the people of the United States,
then, of all creeds and races, call upon the
President and Congress for some active meas-
ures for the abolition of slavery and the slave
trade in Africa, and let especially the four mil-
lions of our emancipated blacks put their
shoulders to the wheel, and Africa will soon be
redeemed.

Our Cab and Hack System.

A subject has been brought to the surface
of late which all who are interested on one side
have regarded as hopeless. Need we say it is
the system of hackney carriages which afflicts
New York? We have certain city ordinances
formulated and passed for the protection (?)
of the public, but any well-ordered hackman
who has ever been known to care the crack of
a whip for them would be a curiosity fit for
a sideshow attraction to the Mayor's Office.

Money could be made by exhibiting him at a
handsome sum per head. We do not mean to
say that in this genteel class there are not
numbers of deserving men, who do as honest-
ly as their opportunities for doing other-
wise will admit; but with them, even, it is the
force of individual honesty and early piety,
for the legal restraint is a fiction. In point
of fact, the person who desires to hire a
coupe or a clarence enters it with the conviction
that until he has heavily ransomed himself
he is in the power of a despot with a lash on
the end of his sceptre and at needs another on
the end of his tongue. In other words, with
indifferent accommodation he is absolutely at
the caprice of the driver as to what his fare
may be. Americans who went abroad to
travel have been heard to wonder that cabs
in their various European forms were under
police control, and that if they only took the
trouble to inquire into the rates of hack hire
no extortion would take place. The genus
hackman is eminently knowing and discrimi-
nating, and although in London or Paris a
verdant foreigner will be overcharged, as he
will anywhere else, the smallest twinkle of in-
formation by the traveller upon the rates of
fare will meet with an astonishingly quick
abatement of cabby's pretensions. That
such an era may dawn in New York we fer-
vently hope; what is more, we are deter-
mined to pay some attention to the matter
until a real instead of an imaginary system of
regulations is in force.

A resolution has been brought before
the Board of Assistant Aldermen to repeal a
section of the present city ordinance which
forbids drivers leaving their vehicles to solicit
or "tout" for fares. The law, as it stands
now, is almost a dead letter, for drivers and
their runners can and do annoy and importu-
nate people to hire them as much as they
please. The fact that drivers are found who
conspire to make the passage through a num-
ber of them equal to running the gauntlet,
as recited of medieval times, is no reason why
the luxury of this special annoyance should
be clothed, as the Assistant Aldermen's
resolution would provide, with a legal right.
We are assured that the great body of virtuous
hack drivers do not desire any such privilege;
that it is only sought in the interest of the
"night owls" and other dark-visaged birds of
prey who haunt the steamboat landings, the
railroad depots and the other portions of the
great town which open special opportunities
for their double trade of hackman and thief.
We are glad to find such spirit extant as
that possessed by the Hack Drivers' Association,
and are sure that this body will hail with
satisfaction a stringent application of the rules
already supposed to be in force. It would be
hard work to eradicate from the entire profes-
sion the villains who will rob a drunken fare
or perform any other scoundrelly piece of
business of which extortion is the smallest;
for cabmen are only human, after all, and
there is frequently "a deal of inhumanity
about a man."

In another column of the HERALD we pub-

lish an abstract of the ordinance at present in
force, together with a summary of a proposed
ordinance to supplant the existing one. In
each of these the section forbidding all touting
by drivers appears. The principal differences
interesting to the public will be found in
arranging more exactly the matter of fares,
and that the supervision of the stands is
entrusted to a captain of police. Now, in the
former particular the rates in each case are
much too high. In the present ordinance the
rate set down for conveying a single passen-
ger one mile is fifty cents, although we be-
lieve a premium might be offered in vain
for any one within five years who has
ridden even ten paces for that amount.
The proposed ordinance rejects the mileage
system, divides the island into ten lateral
divisions and charges one dollar for a drive
without stoppage within any one of the dis-
tricts in a two-horse vehicle, and seventy-five
cents for a one-horse vehicle. These districts
are about a mile each in length, their breadth
being that of the island from east to west.
In London the lowest cab fare is one shilling
or twenty-five cents for not over two miles,
that being the lowest fare; every additional
mile is sixpence extra. Allowing, then, our
hackmen double the London prices as a fair
ratio between the difference of values in labor,
wear and tear, &c., we believe that fifty cents
should be the minimum fare here, and that it
should be good for a two-mile ride in a clean
carriage, additional distances being paid for
at the rate of twenty-five cents a mile. This
rate for a three-mile ride would be exactly half
what the present or the proposed law allows,
and should be sufficient in all conscience. It
is in reality from one-fourth to one-seventh
what a hackman will at present demand.
Driving by the hour should not cost more than
one dollar.

There are for this service in New York some
good coupes and a great number of lumbering
and dirty two-horse carriages. The smart
London Hansom is all but unknown, and the
handy four-wheel one-horse cab, with its im-
mense capacity for baggage, is non-existent.
The cab rank, from which one takes the first
vehicle that comes of the kind he desires, and
which thus prevents all opportunities and
ferries at railroad depots, steamer landings,
batteries and places of amusement, is not to be
found on these shores, and should be estab-
lished as an initial step in any reform. The
supervision of these ranks should be not
merely under one police captain, but the
special care of the entire police force of the
city. In the teeth of the legal rates no person
can at present ride any distance under a
dollar and a half. For overcharge there is no
redress. All over the Continent of Europe
the first policeman will act as arbiter in dis-
putes and enforce the law. Here it is nobody's
business and receives the attention such busi-
ness generally obtains. It is, doubtless, true
that the utter absence of economy on such
matters among Americans who ride in hacks
is the main cause of the continuance of the
abuses we have pointed out; but there is a
large class who are deterred from this form of
rapid transit by chronic extortions, yet who
would be glad to avail themselves of it if
placed at a reasonable rate and with a fairly
profitable one to the hack owners. But not
only on the ground of economy should the
system be changed. While keeping the rates
of fare within proper bounds when we choose
to ride, we insist that the hack and the driver
be prevented from being a bore and a nuisance
when we do not.